

New York April 25th 1861

Dear friend Garrison.

On my way from Boston, I met Phillips in the cars, and answered his question - whether the A. S. Anniversary will be likely to pass unmolested, in the affirmative. But now we have an entirely new case. I called on Johnson to ascertain the conclusion respecting it, and find that he singularly fails to appreciate the state of things here. The assurances of the police are nothing to the purpose. The chief, whom I have known for twenty five years, is a good fellow, but no man can deal with such an overwhelming and sublime mob as now raves here so gloriously. The meeting might pass unnoticed, but possibly not. I would tremble for the personal safety of Phillips, whose secession speeches have come before him. Every thing else, however, should give way to duty and necessity. If these require the meeting, nothing more is to be said. I cannot think they do. Bonaparte said "When the enemy is in the midst of a wrong movement, do not interrupt him." Let slavery rush forward to its damnation. The powers that are now organizing against it, are the rifled cannon of the Declaration of sentiments of 1833. (?) We don't want to turn aside

the balls, nor to divide the aim of the gunners. The glory of the hour is too bright to be disturbed. The remotest chance of disturbance ought to be avoided. Let the curses showered on the Hallecks & the Bennetts be undivided. Do not attract a single stray shot against the Anti Slavery idea. If I believed in spirits working, I would say - let Theodore Parker & John Brown, and Nat Turner alone. They are the Trinity of the age.

What a miracle I have seen! It seems but yesterday that Tammany Hall sent Rynders out at the head of his fearful Empire Club, to annex Texas and spread slavery. To-day, "Billy Wilson's men" are drilling in that same hall, with a banner in front - "Death to all secessionists" - which, being interpreted, meaneth, "Death to Slavery." Billy Wilson is the Jack Heenan of burglars, thieves, and outlaws - the representative of "hell generally." He is drilling a regiment of all the human fiends in this City, (a la Zouave) & says - "When I get off with these fellows, there will not be a thief left in New York." Such bull necks - such demon's foreheads - such dreadful lower jaws - such bunged eyes and scarred specimens of devilish mortality! It makes one shudder to look at them, as they march round and round Tammany Hall to the tune of Dixie's Land, played ~~by~~ with unspeakable fierceness, and shaking their fists aloft with impatient madness. Billy's catechism for candidates is said to be after

this fashion: "1. Have you ever been in a most dam-
-nable row? - Yes. 2. Were you ever beat? - No. 3. Are
you anxious to be killed? - Nothing would be so charming.
- Go in". Each man is to be armed with a musket,
a revolver, a bowie knife, and a club. They are
to undergo regular military drill for a time, and then
to march - about 2000 of them in all. Nothing they
so much want as to be "let loose" on Baltimore.
They pledge themselves to "lay out" the Plug Uglies.
It is my impression that no such band of fiends in
mortal shape, was ever sent out from any planet
in our system.

Enclosed is a curious autograph, which
I have intended to send to you, for some time past.
One of my brothers, who practised medicine about 20
miles from Memphis, Tenn. brought it from there some
16 years since. It was slave fashion to write all
the invitations on one sheet, and take it round to
show to the invited. Whether this was to prevent the
publicity of scattered notes or not, is uncertain. It might
be a party for secret purposes, led by a Moses, in
that Egypt. I hope you will not consider what
I have said about the Ann. Mtg. as a spinning on my
part. To change an announced programme is not
agreeable, but better than to commit an error. A few
people might come together & choose officers &c. Best regards
to your household - Very truly - W. H. Garrison

the answer "I think you have been in a most
-able way? - Yes? Were you ever beat? - No. 3. The
you answer to be better? - Not nearly so
- go on. Each man is to be seen with a
a variety of books, and of other things
to which you have written for a time, and the
to which - about 2000 - the
so much more as to be "let loose" in
The heavy thunder to "lay out" the
It is my intention that no such part of
in that shape, was ever put out from
in my system.
I have a curious autograph which
I have intended to send to you for some time past
Over of my collection of the first of the
which you have written, I have
I have a few more to send to you.

the intention on one side, and taken account
show to the world. Whether this was to prevent the
publication of certain notes or not, is uncertain. It might
be a hint for secret purposes, led up to
that point. I hope you will not consider what
I have said about the same. But an attempt
to change an announced programme of
which is better than to count on error. I
the night came together to change the